

RANCHE AND RANGE.

The Utah Cattle Interests are in Good Condition.

BREEDING BETTER GRADES.

The Cherokee Strip as a Cattle Range is Doomed—Some Facts About the Omnivorous Scrub.

The condition of the sheep and wool market, as viewed by a practical man, has heretofore been reviewed in these columns. A gentleman seen yesterday, referring to the cattle industry, had equally as favorable a report to make concerning the outlook. He says the mild winter has had an excellent effect, and he does not look for a shortage of grass this season in excess of former years. The gentleman has traveled almost the length and breadth of the territory during the last few days, and he says that the late season has had a most excellent result. In some places where grass has scarcely ever been seen, excellent ranges now exist. The supply is light, of course, and will not last long, but he thinks the outlook, on the whole, is considerably in advance of that of a year ago.

Breeding Better Grades.
That each year sees a marked increase in the improvement of Utah stock is beyond all question, and the coming years will see a still greater improvement. There was a time, and it is not long ago, either, when the blooded animal was the exception, and the solitary specimens were confined to two or three of the largest and wealthiest cities. Now, however, there is scarcely a hamlet, village or city in the territory but claims its pedigree animals of all kinds and in no small numbers, either. The foundation having been well and securely laid, we may now reasonably anticipate an onward and an upward movement.

The Cherokee Strip Doomed.
Regarding the prospect for cattlemen in the Cherokee strip, a late dispatch from Fort Worth, Texas, says: Mr. T. C. Sterrett, a prominent cattleman of Abilene, was in the city en route home from the Cherokee strip, where he has just located 2,000 head of beef steers from his ranch in Shoshone county. Mr. Sterrett was on the northern border of the Oklahoma country. When the grand rush was made, he said: "I was fearful that havoc would be played with our cattle interests, but the thousands of the men passing through my pasture, the fence having been let down for them, and other than the road they made they left no trace of their passage. This great influx of people will not affect the cattle interests there this year. The cattle will fatten and get in condition for the market in good time; but good by next year."
"What do you mean by that latter expression?"
"I mean that after this year the cattle interests in the Cherokee strip will be gone, for as soon as the year goes by that strip will be opened for settlement just as Oklahoma has been. Those who now occupy Oklahoma will not, I am satisfied, in any way molest or attempt to molest the cattlemen, but a pressure will be brought that will result in the government throwing that section open, and then the cattlemen will have to seek other pastures."
The movement of cattle from different sections of Texas to the Indian Territory continues. The cattlemen are determined, it appears, to get as much good out of that country this year as possible.

The Omnivorous Scrub.
In sacred history it is recorded that one of the Pharaohs dreamed a dream in which there appeared seven fat kine and seven lean kine, "and the ill-favored and lean-fleshed kine did eat up the seven well-favored and fat kine." It is also related, says the *Brooklyn Gazette*, that Pharaoh was much troubled over the interpretation of this vision, and had finally to invoke the services of a young man named Joseph, who seemed to have acquired somewhat of a local reputation as a reader of dreams—to help him out of the difficulty, which he did so the story goes to the king's satisfaction. In this latter day, however, we seem to have tangible, practical illustrations of that which was only foreshadowed to those ancient times in the dim and misty creations of romance, mystery and legend. It may seem to some an absurd and impossible thing that the ill-favored and lean-fleshed kine should eat up the fat kine—not for lack of appetite, but for want of adaptability to such a diet. Nevertheless, we have illustrations almost without number of just such consumption, apparently impossible though it may be. This does not, necessarily involve a change in the anatomical structure of the kine, whereby the herbivorous and omnivorous are converted into the order carnivora, and become flesh consumers, and at all literally, but practically those ill-favored kine are not only carnivorous but omnivorous, for they consume not only the well-fatted steers of their own kind, but also horses and mules and hogs and houses and farms and bank accounts—all that their owners have accumulated through years of toil and labor, for they are nothing less than the all-consuming, never-retiring scrub. Well might they stand in Pharaoh's vision as typical of the years of famine—these destroyers of plenty and producers of want. How many feeders of scrub cattle have this winter sunk not only prospective profits but past accumulations in an attempt to fat for market the hard-feeding, unthrifty steer—all gone into the insatiable maw of the rascals, leaving profit-consuming scrub! "And the ill-favored, lean-fleshed kine did eat up the seven well-favored and fat kine." Is there need to point out this moral? Will a man sit idly by and see his house go up in smoke? Ought a farmer to aid and abet scrub stock in the consumption of his profits and his property? Is it not about time to turn the rascals out?

Alfalfa in the Mountains.
It has been known for years that alfalfa did well in higher altitudes and withstood the frosts and snows of winter, but it has been seriously questioned whether it would do well on the steep hillside up in the mountains where there is no opportunity to give it more moisture than that derived directly from the clouds. When D. C. Maddux, of Linus valley, finished feeding his loyal land last year, he had about fifteen pounds of alfalfa seed left. This he scattered about on two and a half acres of hillside land which he had first plowed as well as its surface and condition would permit. After sowing, the ground was slightly harrowed. This he did as an experiment, and to test the matter thoroughly, he chose land that has both northern and southern exposure. The seedling was done in the month of March, and much to his pleasure, most of the seed grew and thrived all summer. The alfalfa is now from six to ten inches high, and is growing quite rapidly. The soil where he sowed the seed is a combination of adobe and decomposed granite, very heavy and rather inclined to be cold. The elevation is between four thousand and five thousand feet. Many other stock raisers who have seen his field this spring express astonishment but satisfaction at the result of the experiment.

Hoof and Horn.
The eastern movement of steers by rail has already begun. There passed over the Santa Fe this week a lot of cattle belonging to the Calabasas Cattle company of Arizona, which go to pastures near Topeka, Kansas. Other shipments will follow daily until the southwestern range will be relieved of nearly 100,000 head of cattle. There is a fair possibility that the fall crop of steers in New Mexico and Arizona will be in good marketable condition.

And now the land-hunters are after the

Sisseton Sioux reservation in Dakota, a tract of 1,700 square miles, said to be remarkably well watered and productive. There are about one thousand five hundred Indians on the reservation, and it is proposed to induce them, by perfectly fair means, to part with it for a reasonable compensation.

One of our stock companies, with an intelligence somewhere about it, raised in all the sheep of the country when they were down and nobody wanted them. The pesky animals were well fed through the winter, and this spring a harvest is realized in prices away over those obtained for fat beef. The same company is now getting in good fix as to both cattle and horses. Moral: No need of hurrying to buy sheep just now.—*Live Stock Journal.*

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Wheaton, N. C., Nov. 26, '88. Mrs. S. M. Ives.

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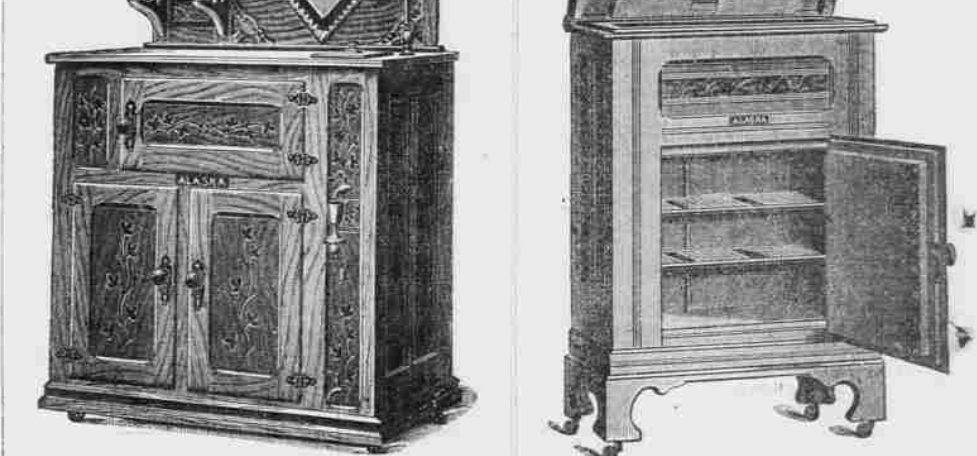
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